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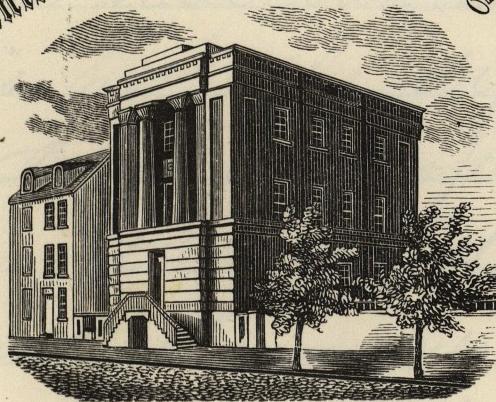


# The Indestructibility of Matter.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY

of the

Homopathic Medical College of Pennsylvania.



FOR

The Degree of Doctor of Medicine

BY

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## Indestructibility

### of Matter.

I have chosen this subject with some reluctance knowing that it is not only difficult but that I am incompetent to master it in all its details and point them out as clearly as I could wish and its importance demands.

Matter may be defined as anything or substance capable of affecting the senses and having certain

<sup>a</sup>  
Properties: viz. Magnitude, Inertia  
Attraction, Impenetrability, Elas-  
ticity, Porosity, Divisibility and  
Indestructibility.

By magnitude we signify that everything has length, breadth and thickness. Have the particles of the air magnitude? They have, but are so exceedingly minute as to be invisible to the unaided eye.

All things have Elasticity. If required to prove this it might easily

and readily be accomplished by taking two spheres. One of India Rubber and the other of Ivory. Throwing them with force upon a hard or dense substance and they will rebound. This is owing to their elasticity; or the capability of their particles being separated, momentarily at least, and others being compressed into closer proximity without being retained in that position. And suddenly resuming their proper

position and form. Iron  
is one of the most elastic  
bodies known. The gases and  
atmospheric air are the most  
elastic bodies that are known  
to exist. Liquids are very  
slightly elastic.

The Porosity of a  
body is caused in this man-  
ner it is composed of min-  
ute particles of the same  
composition and if they are  
placed in apposition they  
will leave small apertures.  
This is owing to their impene-

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Trability. ~~between them setting~~

It is Impenetrable  
owing to one particle not allow-  
ing another to occupy the same  
position at the same time. Should  
we force @ nail or piece of Iron  
through @ board we will find  
that it has not penetrated @  
single particle of Woods but has  
merely pushed them to one side  
or the other. This example will  
suffice to prove the Impenetrabil-  
ity and Porosity. For if the  
particles of Iron do not penetrate  
the particles of Woods there must

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be a space between them although very minute. And an accumulation of these particles and spaces would cause the Torosity of the body.

The Hirsibility of matter is one of the most important to the Homoeopathist. It is believed that a body is composed of inconceivably minute particles and are capable of being separated. This is stated in the works of the most respected of the Dominant school of Medicine. One of their Writers stated

than a small amount of Indigo  
will give color to @ given number  
of gallons of water. That Goldp  
may be beaten so thin that it  
will take 360.000 of them, that  
is the Goldp leaves, to make @  
pile 1inch in thickness. That  
@ small portion of Strychnia will  
diffuse itself through a pint of  
water rendering every drop bitter  
If these were shown to them and  
pronounced Homeopathic remedies  
they would deny, that they  
could be thus minutely divided.  
If the Goldp is so exceedingly

divisible by the use of the ham-  
mer why is it not still further  
divisible by using other methods?

Should it be placed in a mortar  
and triturated with a pestle, I  
cannot see why it is not still  
further divisible, after having  
been divided as minutely as  
they have stated. Nor do I  
think that its divisibility stops  
here if alcohol is used as the  
menstruum. In the odoriferous  
bodies we have examples of  
divisibility. The Rose will send  
forth its fragrance by day and

by night yet it will now  
have lost anything than  
will be perceptible. The  
Eternal grain of dust is cited  
by the most of writers as being  
the best example of this.

I will here cease the  
discussion of the properties of  
matter and confine myself  
to the one that I have chosen  
for the basis of this essay.  
Desiring as I progress in the  
subject that the ideas that  
I shall therein adduce are  
not erroneous, and if erroneous

that they will not be attributed  
to the inability of those who taught  
me or, the defects of their teachings  
but to my incapability of ap-  
plying those teachings correctly.  
Chemistry is to the arts  
and Sciences what the Engine  
is to the Machinery; it is the  
propelling power. What would  
our Science be without it? It  
is its keystone. Its very centre,  
from which its various branches  
diverge and in which they have  
their existence. To the Homoeopath-  
ist it is of vital importance as

his remedial agents must of necessity be free from all foreign and deleterious matters. How could he remove these matters without a knowledge of Chemistry? Ay! How could he determine their presence without its aid? A knowledge of it will assist him very materially in his Physiological researches and in combating many of the diseases and accidents which of necessity must fall under his notice. And therefore should be carefully and thoroughly studied and

practiced by him that he may become more familiarly acquainted with it.

"In the begining all things were created" So water I desire to draw the attention, To all appearances it is in the same quantities, as it was after the creation. Immense quantities have been used in various ways. It being used in most of the manufactures, in large and small amounts. It evaporates very readily, ascending to where the atmosphere is rarer and

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contains less caloric. From the oceans, seas, bays, lakes and rivers it is evaporated by the heat of surrounding objects. After being condensed it descends in the form of rain and snow. The earth not being in a condition to absorb it as fast as it descends it forms minute streams as these pass on they unite increasing in size and volume forming a rivulet, a Creek, a River and finally pouring its contents into the mighty deep, affording one example of the Indestructibility

of Matter? Continuing on in this routine for ages past and will for all time. Should its supply be withdrawn all things would perish. Man and beast could not exist. Vegetation would <sup>cease</sup> and become a blank as before creation.

~~Influence~~ Carbonic acid in the air is another illustration of the indestructibility of matter. Some believe and I have no doubt that they have good reasons for so doing that after the creation and thousands

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of years before Adam or any  
being was placed upon the  
earth than there were immense  
forests of great growth. that  
these were removed to allow  
man and other creatures to  
have their being. And by the  
pressure of the earth, and other  
influences, above them caused  
the displacement of the water  
and other matters retaining  
the carbon in an almost pure  
state. It is deposited in large  
veins; from these it is taken by  
man, and by him it is used in

various ways. He is so constituted  
that most of his food has to be  
prepared by cooking and to  
accomplish this he has to resort  
to the use of Carbon. By the  
union of oxygen with Carbon  
we have caloric evolved. These  
elements uniting in proportions  
to form Carbonic acids. And  
for every pound of Carbon thus  
used we have  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound of  
Carbonic acid given off along  
with some water. For in every  
case where there is combustion,  
will adding to that which I

have just mentioned, there is water formed.

Man is required to receive some of his existence from the air. Inhaling Oxygen and Carbonic acid and some water. The most of his excretions contain water. After death his body returns to its different elements. In Putrefaction or decomposing the Carbon and Oxygen unite in proportion to form Carbonic acid. Hydrogen and Oxygen unite forming water, and the

Hydrogen unites with the  
Nitrogen forming ammonia  
These are dispersed through  
the air. This will in a mea-  
sure account for the sup-  
ply of these being indestruct-  
ible

As I have stated man  
requires Oxygen. It is highly  
necessary for his existence.  
The question very naturally  
arises How is its supply  
kept up to the standard?  
I cannot enter into a full  
discussion of the question

at this time and will con  
tent myself by giving a few  
facts. Carbonic acid is drank  
in by the vegetation of the Earth  
for its nourishment. & In the  
country where the trees and  
plants are more abundant  
we have the purest air.

Seeing that man requires  
Oxygen and vegetation  
Carbonic acid. The one  
exhaling Carbonic acid and  
exhalation of Oxygen by the  
other we find by this means  
and the other than I have

attempted to describe that their  
quantity is still refer at the stand-  
ards.

These are but simple proofs  
of the Indestructibility of Matter.  
I hope they will meet with your  
approval and are sufficient to  
prove that I am at least acquain-  
ted with it in some of its details

I am with respect

Your humble and obedient Servt

Henry C. Pratt